

VOTES FOR WOMEN

OFFICIAL ORGAN OF THE UNITED SUFFRAGISTS

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British Woman: "He is freed that he may fight better. How much more effective my work would be if my hands were unfettered!"

(The Tsar has promised political freedom to Poland. Why does not the British Government show an equal measure of generosity to the women now giving their services to the country?)

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DEDICATION

To the brave women who to-day are fighting for freedom: to the noble women who all down the ages kept the flag flying and looked forward to this day without seeing it: to all women all over the world, of whatever race, or creed, or calling, whether they be with us or against us in this fight, we dedicate this paper.

THE OUTLOOK

This week, VOTES FOR WOMEN enters upon another stage of its career, and becomes the official organ of the United Suffragists. For the second time since its first issue in October, 1907, Mr. and Mrs. Pethick Lawrence have relinquished the proprietorship of the paper they founded, and, on this occasion, the editorship also, and have handed it over to a suffrage organisation. In accepting the trust, United Suffragists wish to put on record their sense of indebtedness with regard to the valuable gift thus conferred on them, and their determination to carry on, as far as in them lies, the high traditions of a paper that has been so ably conducted throughout the fluctuations of the last seven years.

Our Hope for the Future

In the future that lies before us, we shall hope to maintain that reputation for integrity of purpose, breadth of view and accuracy of information which has always characterised VOTES FOR WOMEN. The two Editors who have, until now, been responsible for this reputation have rendered many incalculable services to the woman's cause, but none greater than that of having conducted through the most critical period in the history of the suffrage movement a paper that has commanded the respect of friend and foe alike, has won readers in every part of the civilised world, and made itself a force in the political history of the twentieth century. With the loyal help of our readers, for which we look with confident hope, we shall make every endeavour to preserve the fabric which has been built up, and to continue to make our appeal to all thinking men and women, of whatever nationality or political party, who have our great cause at heart.

The Changed Situation

It is at a tragic moment that we enter upon our great enterprise. With Europe at war, the propaganda of our cause takes on an entirely new aspect. While retaining in our paper those features which are unaffected by events on the Continent, such as our comparison of punishments, and our chronicle of the suffrage movement in America and British Dominions overseas, we shall necessarily, in the immediate future, substitute for ordinary suffrage news at home a record of women's activities in connection with the changed situation, and of the effects upon women and the race of a war brought about, as we believe, through the absence of the woman's voice from the counsels of the Nations. In VOTES FOR WOMEN will be found, in fact, a page of the war's history that would otherwise never be written. At the same time, we shall keep our finger on the pulse of the suffrage movement, to safeguard women from what has hitherto been their fate at such historic moments—exploitation during the war and contemptuous neglect after it is over.

Suffragists and National Service

Suffragists are taking a prominent part in the many schemes on foot for rendering service to the country when the men are called to the front. Apart from the actual relief schemes that are being organised by suffrage societies, of which we give some account on page 703, many other forms of national service in course of projection are being carried through by women already known as prominent suffragists. The Women's Emergency Corps, for instance, which has now registered over 6,000 names of skilled women, prepared, if necessary, to take the place of men in all kinds of employment hitherto supposed to be outside the sphere of woman, is in itself a suffragist idea, although supported by women of every political opinion.

What the Woman's Movement has done

The suffrage point of view permeates indeed the whole system of relief now before the country. We are glad to see that the Queen herself has deprecated

A PATRIOT

By Henry W. Nevinson

the idea of her name being associated with any attempt, however well-meaning, to injure the chances of unemployed workwomen through the encouragement of amateur sewing parties. Well-known social reformers like Miss Mary McArthur and Miss Llewelyn Davies (with whom we record an interview elsewhere), have publicly appealed to leisured women not to interfere with work that should be given to their poorer sisters. At least one large firm, to avoid dismissing their 1,400 girl workers, thrown out of work through the stoppage of foreign trade, have opened a workroom in which they may be retained as makers of garments for the wives and children of soldiers. The day of aimless doles to self-respecting women is gone by, and we owe the change to the awakening of women through the suffrage movement. How long will it be before the Government recognises what is owing to the women who act so promptly and so ably in the moment of crisis?

Another Wise Example

Our country's enemy and our country's ally have both given us examples of a wise generosity. At the very beginning of the war, speaking to the German people from his palace in Berlin, the Kaiser declared that he freely and with all his heart forgave all his political opponents, and next day he issued an unconditional amnesty for all political offenders. Still more remarkable has been the action of the Russian Tsar. He has issued a proclamation promising to Poland, not only the widest kind of Home Rule, with free exercise of religion and language, but a re-union of the whole Polish nationality, combining the German and Austrian parts of Poland with the Russian, provided that victory remains with Russia and her allies.

If Poland, Why Not Women?

Those who know Russia best will best appreciate the enormous advance marked by such a promise. For at least half a century the guiding principle of Russian policy has been an ever-increasing "Russification" of the subject races. Now, in order to secure the support and loyalty of Poland, that policy is entirely reversed, and the pledge of national freedom is given. In the amnesty to Suffragists our Government may be said to have followed the Kaiser's good example. Why should they not now have the wisdom to follow the Tsar? Is not the eager and devoted support of the women of this country more vital to them than Poland is to Russia? That support is already being given with a generosity this Government has done little to earn; but with what prodigality would women's service be poured forth if it were inspired by the pledge of emancipation such as Russia has granted! No one taunts the Tsar with yielding to fear or violence. All the world is delighted that he has done the right thing. By an act of simple justice our Government might win equal applause and with it all the rewards of a generous spirit. Now, if ever, is the moment for healing internal wounds.

The War and the Baby

The sufferings of the individual in war time beggar description. Of the damage done to the race, Mr. Arthur H. D. Acland writes in the *Manchester Guardian*, pointing out that great as the mortality is now among young children of the country, this is likely to become greater in the near future unless special effort is made on behalf of the mothers. That this is true is startlingly evident from a fact that has just come to our notice. In a London clinic, where some sixty babies are weighed weekly, the weight of every one of the babies went down in the first week after the war was declared! Yet there are still anti-suffragists who say that because women have no part in war they should have no voice in decisions of peace and war.

Women on Councils

Slowly we are getting on. In the course of the amazing "speeding up" of legislation brought about by the war, two Bills of considerable importance to women were passed through their remaining stages. These are the County and Borough Councils (Qualification) Bill, and the County, Town, and Parish Councils (Qualification) (Scotland) Bill. Their effect should be far-reaching, for they make the qualification for women candidates on the councils a residential one, and thereby prevent the exclusion, in practice, of married women from these bodies, which has hitherto limited the number of women offering themselves for election. A grave disability has at last been removed.

It was evening—the evening after the declaration of war between Germany and Russia. The great avenue of "Unter den Linden" in Berlin was crammed with men and women moving restlessly to and fro. Every now and then some procession of students—youths and girls—forced its way through the crowd, singing the great patriotic songs. But where Friedrichstrasse crosses "Unter den Linden" the crowd was too thick for any procession to move. The great cafés at the corners and all up the street to the railway bridge were jammed with people. There German citizens and soldiers sat thick at every table. Women, and often children, were with them. All drank beer or coffee. All shouted, discussed, cheered, and sang. The long-expected, the long-dreaded moment had come at last—had come on a sudden. On east and west the country would be attacked. The struggle for existence which her statesmen had long foretold was close before her now.

At one of the great cafés the band had just withdrawn, and a pianist was announced to take the interlude. She was a young Russian, well-known in the café for the last year or two—a performer of great technical skill and passionate "temperament." The vital splendour of her performance made her a favourite with musicians, and the unmusical liked to watch her pliant, little figure, always dressed in black—black skirt and black Russian blouse, buttoned up on the left shoulder like a peasant's. They liked the mass of black hair, and the black eyes dreaming in the pallid little face.

Besides, there were stories about her. As a mere girl she had taken part in the Moscow revolution of 1905. She had fought with her "Browning" at the barricades. In the anguish and terror of the suppression she had fought to the last. It was said she had killed a man—a General, a Governor of a Province—no one knew exactly. Perhaps it wasn't true. It seemed impossible that those delicate little hands which fluttered over the keys like white moths could have killed a man. But there it was; the Russian Government always kept watch on her. Time after time they had tried to hunt her down. It was said they had caught her once—had tortured her in the Rigat torture-chamber. What they had done to her was too hideous to be spoken of. Yet she had escaped, and how she must hate them—Tsar, Ministers, Generals, officials, people, country and all!

Her hatred for the Russian Government secured her a hearty welcome. People cheered. They raised their beer-glasses to her, and wished her a happy revenge. They cried "Long live the Russian revolution!" The women told each other in whispers what she had suffered. Then she began to play. It was a wild fantasia, made up of peasant songs and dances, and of boatmen's chants upon Volga rafts. People liked it very well, and no one knew what it was. But to herself it called up the vision of a vast landscape stretching out on every side to a flat horizon. Great spaces of yellow grass were there, and lines of dark forest, brown and blue. At intervals the land was striped with long ribbons of crops, and beside them stood a little cluster of village huts. From the midst rose the green iron plates of a church roof, a blue and gilded dome, and on the top the Russian cross, having a bar for the Crucified's feet, with one end higher than the other, because the Russian Christ is lame. It was August now, and over all that scene the air was sweet with the smell of harvest.

And then the vision changed, and she saw her university town and the little rooms in which her friends had gathered to achieve the country's liberation. They had thought of nothing else; they talked of nothing else. No pettiness could exist among them, no gossip, no tinge of jealousy or suspicion. Held by the bond of danger, theirs was the true companionship, and in service to their cause stood the perfect freedom. Despotism or not, there lay the land of liberty; there equality was found; there one enjoyed an adventure of thought and life beyond the conception of all these well-regulated nations. She saw again the prisons, the sacrifices, the unflinching devotion. Russia! Oh, Russia! What land beside could produce such men, such women?

She ended, and the applause rose high. But it was war-time. It was a crowd of eager patriots. "Die

Wacht am Rhein!" they shouted; "Deutschland, Deutschland über Alles—give us that! Give us that!" She sat down again and looked dreamily out over that crammed and excited audience. They were silent, ready to join in the song at the first note. The first note came. The first bar was played, and still they were silent. At the second bar they knew. High upon the air wafted the mournful pathos of the Russian hymn—most beautiful, most sorrowful of all national songs.

In a moment all were up. With a crash of broken glasses, overturned tables and chairs, they rushed against the platform. Cursing and shaking their fists, they yelled upon her. With dreaming eyes she looked into a distance far beyond their seething crowd, and still the sad sweetness of Russia's hymn sounded on the air. Suddenly it stopped. The foremost of the crowd climbed on the piano and smashed it to pieces with their boots. All furniture was broken up. The very portrait of the Kaiser upon the wall was shivered in the wild destruction. Men and women fought and tore at each other in their longing to shatter all they could see. Where the music-stool had been, an indistinguishable knot of human beings was now struggling, stamping, and kicking over something soft and black upon the floor.

Next morning the shutters were up to hide the ruin of the great café, and in a neighbouring hospital a little foreign woman lay dead. She had given no name. The cause of her death was never explained.

SOME SHORT STORIES

In the nineties English men and women writers made a cult of the short story; and for a brief period we really tried in this country to turn out something that should equal the short stories of other lands. But the attempt never really came off, though the *Yellow Book* set did its best, and other lesser lights imitated with vigour the *Yellow Book* set. How different and how superior remain the short stories of France, of Russia, of Scandinavia; and with what ease these writers in foreign tongues seem to give us little masterpieces, first to translate and then to publish with all the advantages of binding and print and paper that are never theirs in the country of their origin!

Even in "Fair Haven and Foul Strand,"* in which we by no means see Strindberg at his best, there is much to allure, much to reflect on that is utterly absent from the average British novel. It is a collection of stories, each of which illustrates, if not the utter failure of the marriage tie, at least the failure of the human soul to retain its vision after marriage. It would be difficult to find a more unpleasant selection of married couples than Strindberg gives us in this series of unpleasant stories. Here is the most optimistic passage in the book; it relates to a man and his wife, who, after much unhappiness, are learning to jog along at last; and the man who tells their story says of them:—

I know that they have disagreements sometimes, for these must happen when there are different opinions, but I know also that neither wishes to dominate over the other. They go their way, making less demands on life than before, and therefore they are as happy as one can be when one takes life as it is. That was what the old period with its claim of being able to make a heaven on earth could not do, but what the new period has learnt.

Just because of its note of resignation, this is perhaps the most cynical, while the least pessimistic, utterance in the book. For it says no word of the new period on which we are entering, in which comradeship and the equality of the sexes are making for the regeneration of marriage and building up a new heritage for the younger generation that comes knocking at the door.

In "Tales of Two Countries"† Maxim Gorky is not, perhaps, quite at his best; but he gets there very nearly in one or two of his Italian Tales, notably in "The Hunchback" and "The Traitor's Mother," while the quiet irony which is so characteristic of him is most apparent in the Russian section of the book. One would have looked naturally in the Russian tales for the greater tragedies; but these, curiously enough, are to be found in the earlier tales of Italy. The Russian stories are savagely ironic, not terrible. Yet this is not curious after all. A rebel who writes of rebellion from the inside sees the tragedy of it right enough; but it is the irony of it that he gets on to paper. And rebels of all countries should read the two sketches called "The Liberal" and "Hard to Please"‡ if they want to test the truth of this.

E. S.

* "Fair Haven and Foul Strand." By August Strindberg. (London: T. Werner Laurie, Price 6s.)
† "Tales of Two Countries." By Maxim Gorky. (London: T. Werner Laurie, Price 6s.)

INTO THE BREACH!

Woman's Sphere as it really is—Service of every kind forthcoming—What Suffrage organisations are doing—Interview with Miss Llewelyn Davies

HOW TO HELP AND NOT TO HINDER

Views of Miss Llewelyn Davies

In the universal rush of women to the rescue in this hour of emergency it is important to collect the opinions of eminent women who have not waited for an outbreak of war to demonstrate their patriotism, but have always worked to improve the position of their poorer sisters. Such a social reformer is Miss Llewelyn Davies, the General Secretary of the Women's Co-operative Guild, with which her name has so long been associated; and she very kindly found time in the midst of her work, one morning this week, to give our representative her views on the subject of the moment.

What Women Should Not Do

With regard to that very disputable point, the service of the unpaid helper, Miss Davies said she was strongly opposed to work being undertaken by the voluntary worker which ought to be placed with women who are badly in need of employment. Not only was this unfair to the real workers, but the small quantities in which materials under the amateur system were bought led to great waste of time and money. Such helpers, said Miss Davies emphatically, should undertake no work belonging to any trade, as by so doing they were a mischievous obstacle in the way of those who were trying to make things easier for the thousands of women in distress.

What Voluntary Helpers Can Do

Asked whether there was nothing for voluntary helpers to do, Miss Llewelyn Davies suggested that much valuable service might be rendered by those capable of undertaking organising work, in superintending workrooms, and in linking up the different agencies at work. Another suggestion she made was that such women could also help in raising money for the various funds to be collected; and one excellent way was to relieve the economic distress among musicians and actors by arranging entertainments for the purpose of raising funds at which these artists could be given paid employment. Apart from these special forms of service open to the leisured woman, Miss Davies was very much of the opinion that many voluntary helpers should be told quite frankly that the kindest service they could render was, very possibly, to stand aside from actual schemes of help, to lead their normal lives and, as far as possible, to engage in their normal occupations and amusements.

To Help the Mothers

Passing on to another subject, Miss Llewelyn Davies mentioned to our representative the scheme of relief in which she is principally interested. She feared that unless the public were made alive to the situation the claims of the nursing mother might be overlooked. There were at present six million uninsured married women, and a large percentage of those would, she said, dispense with medical advice before and after childbirth if it had to be paid for. Her idea is that a grant should be made by the Citizen Committees out of the Prince of Wales' Fund, which, with other money to be raised, could be spent in free dinners for expectant and nursing mothers, also in providing maternity centres in districts where no such organisations exist. Here, too, in her opinion, was an opening for the work of the capable voluntary helper.

TO AVOID OVERLAPPING

At a meeting of the War Emergency Workers' Committee, held at the House of Commons last week, the following resolution was passed:—

"That in view of the supreme importance of doing everything possible to maintain undiminished the volume of wage-earning employment, and especially in view of the hundreds of thousands of women now being thrown out of work, this Committee strongly protests against various well-meaning suggestions that women of independent means, or girls of school age, should undertake gratuitously the making of garments for the poor, necessaries for the troops, or other work that

would otherwise be paid for on commercial lines; and this Committee urges upon benevolent persons willing to give their help that they can only avoid doing positive harm by confining themselves to the many duties and services that are performed only by volunteers, of which more will be required."

A Fabian Warning

In a Memorandum issued by the Fabian Society Executive it is strongly urged that the employment of women as well as of men shall form part of relief schemes in this direction. An appeal is also made to relief Committees not to set "benevolent ladies or children of school age to make clothes for the poor or necessaries for the troops. This," continues the memorandum, "is very apt to increase unemployment."

WOMEN'S EMERGENCY CORPS

Little Theatre, Adelphi, London, W.C.

The Women's Emergency Corps, started a bare fortnight ago by a little group of women, among whom were Miss Lena Ashwell, Miss Decima Moore, the Hon. Mrs. Haverfield, all well-known names in the Suffrage movement, has gone ahead with surprising rapidity, and over 6,000 women registered at the Little Theatre within a few days of the formation of the Corps. Among these, interpreters seem to have predominated, over 1,000 being enrolled; of these 600 know as many as four languages, the high-water mark being reached with eleven languages! Many of the women who apply are competent to ride, drive, and groom horses, or to drive a motor-car or cycle, and do the running repairs.

Among others who have registered are women gardeners (two of whom stated they were prepared to run the cultivation of a piece of waste ground), women accountants, doctors, dispensers, cooks, caterers. The idea of the Women's Emergency Corps, as we stated briefly last week, is to organise efficient women for voluntary service to meet the present national crisis, to form a central register of their names in classified groups, to safeguard the paid labour market by controlling volunteer energies, and to utilise these as far as possible. Branches will be inaugurated in different districts, and the following women's societies, representing all political opinions and many kinds of service, have already promised their co-operation: National Service League, Women's Local Government Board, Young Women's Christian Association, Women's Freedom League, Women's Liberal Federation, United Suffragists, New Constitutional Society for Women's Suffrage, Women's Imperial Health Association, Women's Tax Resistance League, National Society of Day Nurseries, American Women's War Relief Fund, Servants' Tax Resistance, Actresses' Franchise League, and the International Women's Suffrage Alliance. Miss Mary McArthur, of the National Federation of Women Workers, is also co-operating.

Free Public Meeting

The Corps will hold a free public meeting at the Shaftesbury Theatre on Thursday, August 27, at 2.30 p.m., at which the objects and methods will be fully explained and progress reported. The Duchess of Marlborough has consented to become the Honorary Treasurer of the Corps.

Women's Emergency Service Corps

In connection with the Corps is the Women's Emergency Service Corps, the business of which is to serve the country at home by training women to act as supplementary nurses, to be drawn upon by the authorities when required. A complete course of free tuition under doctors, nurses, and cooks is being given to 400 girls and women for this purpose, to educate them as well as to help them over a bad time.

WOMEN SPECIAL CONSTABLES

We understand that Miss Nina Boyle is organising a scheme for offering the services of a body of women as special constables to the Metropolitan Police authorities. It is hoped that official recognition will be granted, and that the organisation may lead to an appreciation of the necessity for and value of women police.

SUFFRAGE SOCIETIES AND THE WAR

While most of the effective schemes for dealing with the distress consequent upon the outbreak of war are being organised and carried through largely by women who are Suffragists, the Suffrage Societies themselves are also in many cases undertaking schemes of relief, either instead of, or in addition to their usual campaign of propaganda. The activities of the United Suffragists are described on page 705, and we give below some particulars of other Societies likely to interest our readers as showing the strong connection that exists between the Suffrage movement and the life of the nation, whether in peace or war.

THE NATIONAL UNION OF WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE SOCIETIES

The N.U.W.S.S. has dropped all political work for the time being, and has turned itself into a Women's Active Service Corps, with headquarters at 59, Parliament Street, where offers of voluntary help are received and registered. This includes most kinds of service, from the care of mothers and children to agriculture, and the organisers state that one satisfactory result of the registration is the discovery of the very high level of efficiency that exists among the members of the Union. Very few of the applicants so far have been unskilled, and those who are untrained are given advice as to obtaining training. Every effort is made to keep voluntary helpers from doing work that should be paid, while applicants for paid work are in most cases referred to Labour Exchanges. The provincial societies of the Union are offering their services to the Citizens' Committees, and in many cases securing the appointment of women to these committees. The National Union is retaining its entire staff, both at headquarters and throughout the country.

WOMEN'S SOCIAL AND POLITICAL UNION

The Women's Social and Political Union has temporarily suspended activities together with the publication of the *Suffragette*. In a letter issued by Mrs. Pankhurst it is pointed out that militancy must be "rendered less effective by contrast with the infinitely greater violence done in the present war, not to mere property and economic prosperity alone, but to human life." The letter continues:—"As for work for the vote, on the lines of peaceful argument, such work is, we know, futile even under ordinary conditions to secure votes for women in Great Britain. How much less therefore will it avail at this time of international war-fare!" It is further pointed out that not only will "much energy and a very large sum of money" be saved by this course, "but an opportunity will be given to the Union as a whole, and above all to those individual members who have been in the fighting line to recuperate after the tremendous strain and suffering of the past two years."

WOMEN'S FREEDOM LEAGUE

The W.F.L. have decided to abandon all forms of active militancy during the war, while re-affirming in a resolution, recently passed, the urgency of keeping the Suffrage flag flying. In order to render service to the country in a time of crisis, they are organising a Women's Suffrage National Aid Corps at their headquarters, 1, Robert Street, Adelphi, whose chief object will be to render help to the women and children of the nation. The Corps will co-operate with the Women's Emergency Corps, the local authorities and other relief societies, but is a separate organisation of which Mrs. Despard is President, and Miss Constance Maud, Hon. Secretary.

FORWARD CYMRIC SUFFRAGE UNION

The F.C.S.U., thinking that the present time is most opportune for pointing out the need of the woman's voice in the government of nations, is continuing its propaganda work as far as possible. The sale of work to be held on October 23 in aid of the funds of the Society will take place as arranged, but the whole of the proceeds will now be devoted to the relief of Welsh

families rendered destitute by the war. Offerings in money or gifts for the sale can be sent to Mrs. Mansell-Moullin, 69, Wimpole Street, W.

NEW CONSTITUTIONAL SOCIETY

The New Constitutional Society has dropped its political work for the moment and is affiliated to the Women's Emergency Corps. In addition, it is using its large hall at the Park Mansions Arcade, Knightsbridge, as a workroom, employing a forewoman and assistant from a first-class dressmaker's who have lost their work through the war. Red Cross uniforms are being made, and orders are gladly taken for all kinds of dressmaking and needlework.

THE MEN'S POLITICAL UNION

The M.P.U. have suspended all propagandist and militant activities for the present, and are devoting their efforts as individuals, not as a Society, to the service of their country.

EAST LONDON FEDERATION

The East London Federation of the Suffragettes are continuing their Suffrage campaign as usual, and at the same time are co-operating in relief schemes for the district. Miss Sylvia Pankhurst has been appointed to the Central Relief Committee for Poplar, and it is hoped that other members of the Federation may be elected to the District Sub-Committee. Miss Pankhurst has asked Mr. Asquith and Mr. Lloyd George to receive a deputation of East End working women, who wish, among other things, to demand that working women shall be taken into consultation with reference to the control of the food supply, that the Government should provide employment both for men and women, paying them at equal rates, and that women should be enfranchised immediately to enable them to help in minimising as far as possible the horrors of war.

CONSERVATIVE AND UNIONIST WOMEN'S FRANCHISE ASSOCIATION

The C. and U.W.F.A. have decided to drop all political work for the moment, and to offer the services of the organisation to the Soldiers' and Sailors' Families Association throughout the country, which has for its object the care in war time of the wives and children of men who have gone to join the Army, Navy, or Territorial Force.

THE CHURCH LEAGUE FOR WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE

The C.L.W.S. is abandoning its usual work, and is placing its offices and staff at the service of the body charged with dealing with distress in London. The executive committee has also recommended its branches throughout the kingdom to make a similar offer to their local authorities.

BRITISH DOMINIONS' WOMAN SUFFRAGE UNION

In a printed manifesto Miss Harriet Newcomb, hon. sec. of the B.D.W.S.U., appeals to all its members in the Dominions Overseas to make and collect clothing for the children of the poor in London during the coming winter. The appeal ends with the words:—"In the work of social reconstruction which must follow this debacle, women must see to it that sex-disqualification shall be completely removed, and that they take their place, co-operating with men on equal terms in every department of the State."

INTERNATIONAL WOMEN SUFFRAGE ALLIANCE

The I.W.S.A. has undertaken relief work in the interests of distressed foreign women who have been stranded without resources in England. They have decided to organize individual hospitality for women of all nationalities, and also to arrange for constant attendance at the various Consulates.

A SUFFRAGIST FIELD HOSPITAL

The Men's Society for Women's Rights have organized a hospital camp in the neighbourhood of Harwich for the sick and wounded of any nationality who may be sent to England during the war. Suffragists and others who are interested in this form of service should communicate with the Hon. Camp Secretary, Mr. H. R. Sutherland Leveson-Gower, Men's Society for Women's Rights, 65, Avenue Chambers, Southampton Row, W.C.

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UNITED SUFFRAGISTS

3, Adam Street, Strand. Telephone 5150 Regent
Colours: Purple, White, and Orange

OBJECT:—To secure a Government measure to give women the Vote on the same terms as men.

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FRIDAY, AUGUST 21, 1914.

THE LONGEST WAR

The present war has been made in the chancelleries, and not in the homes of Europe. Everywhere individual soldiers are killing others with whom, as individuals, they would rather be at peace. Such a state of things argues an extraordinary divorce between peoples and Governments, and it will be observed that the immediate responsibility for the fact of there being a war at all, whether it lies on Germany, as so much evidence seems to indicate, or whether it lies on Russia, as Germany maintains, lies at any rate chiefly on those Powers where the divorce between people and Government is completest, where the democratic principle is most widely ignored. The same false national ideals which precipitate war imply denial of rights in peace. But it is idle to spend time in deploring the past. As suffragists, we look forward to a time when, even in those militarist quarters of Europe where the basest ideals have been more consistently cherished, a newer and nobler conception of rights and duties will prevail.

But nobody just now is primarily interested in either past or future. Women are in this war as much as men: their problem, like men's, is how they can best serve during it. The old delimitation of function was nowhere sharper than in the domain of war. Men must fight and women must weep: men must deface God's image and women must patch it up again: men must explode shells and women must sew shirts—such were the accepted rules of the game. The present crisis has found women tackling wider responsibilities in a more modern spirit. Also, what is even more significant, it has found many men acquiescent in the new spirit of the women. There is small suggestion now that woman's part in national danger is a passive one. There are only suggestions as to how her activities may be co-ordinated with man's. Already the Emergency Corps, whose important work we outline elsewhere, has demonstrated that in innumerable departments of life which have hitherto been consecrated to men, women are equally

proficient and equally prepared. Already the weakness, from the woman's point of view, of the Government's otherwise admirable schemes for public utility work has been noted, and surely it will, at a time of such need as this, be remedied. The Nation has well indicated the right course for the Government to pursue:—

A capital weakness of the Government's scheme is that it pays hardly any attention to the organisation of women. No use, apparently, is to be made of all the special experience of women engaged in Trade Union work or the Women's Co-operative Guild. Yet it is obvious that if the nation has to sit down and ask itself what is the best use to be made of the leisure of women thrown out of employment, the best advice it can take is the advice of women.

Miss Mary Macarthur, in an interview with the *Daily Citizen*, emphasises a similar point, and proceeds to another one, no less important:—

The utility schemes suggested so far—road development &c.—are entirely for men. A great service would be done by well-to-do leisured women who wish to provide articles of clothing for the troops if they paid for the work at the proper rates and obtained the labour to do it from the Labour Exchanges, whose shelves are full of applications from unemployed women.

The fear that well-intentioned but shortsighted schemes of personal service—such as the making of clothes for soldiers—might tend to increase of unemployment has been partially laid. The Queen has announced a plan "to collect money to finance schemes of work for women unemployed on account of the war," and has expressed her wish "that these schemes should be devised in consultation with industrial experts and representatives of working-class women." In short, the old conception of the woman-worker as either a dumb slave or an ornamental accessory is gone for ever: her labour is to be organised, her advice is to be sought, she is to collaborate with man on an equal footing to render service during the war.

That the invaluable services of women to the State are in almost every case being organised by keen suffragists will not be lost upon the public. But our immediate appeal is for suffragists, even at this crisis, not to forget the prime importance of their own cause. This is no question of rival interests: no one can possibly desire to put any other interest at this moment before the supreme interests of the State. Our point is that the State can be served not least effectively and lastingly by insistence upon those ideals of comradeship and self-devotion to which the suffrage cause has always been consecrated.

"What can I do to help?" Every woman in the country is asking herself this. Some women, possessed of no special training and unwilling to "black-leg" their sisters by doing work which otherwise would have to be paid for, may even have been driven reluctantly to conclude that there is little they can usefully undertake. No suffragist need or should feel this. It is of vital importance, now more than ever, that the woman's point of view should be kept before the public, that all, in the new spirit of mutual aid which possesses a country at times of crisis, should realise what war means to women and what women mean to war. The business of suffrage propaganda is part of the longest war of all, the war that knows no cessation, of idealism (without which no victory can profit a nation) against materialism. We want to insist that suffragists, in keeping the flag of their own cause flying, will not be serving any sectional or partisan interest, any petty or immediate end, but will be contributing actually and directly to the service of the State in its efforts and trials.

KEEP THE FLAG FLYING

What that Means to United Suffragists

"Business as Usual," the national slogan for those of us who are not going to Belgium and are not wearing khaki, will hardly do for suffragists. What, then, are they going to do about it? Is the work of eight long years to be scrapped on account of this war? Are women who are suffragists to relapse again into mere hewers of wood and drawers of water for the heroic defenders of their country? Are suffrage organisations useless as such until the "Nations in Arms" cease killing one another from sheer exhaustion? Such are not the opinions of the United Suffragists. They believe that for the suffragist there is a double and peculiar significance in the exhortation to "keep the flag flying."

Under Two Flags

In the old days, before all the pomp and circumstance of war was put into the depositories at the beginning of a campaign, each regiment used to go into action with two colours—the King's and the Regimental: the suffragist has her Regimental colour, too, and, enthusiastic though she may be about the Union Jack, she is not (if she chances to be a United Suffragist) going to put the purple, white and orange into cold storage for the period of the war. While co-operating with the Women's Emergency Corps in a special war service, the Committee have no intention of suspending all the ordinary operations of the society; they intend to do their best to keep it together as an organisation for the propaganda of Woman's Suffrage, and they believe that the war makes it even more necessary than usual that the woman's point of view should be emphasised.

As many of our readers are aware, VOTES FOR WOMEN becomes with this number the official organ of the United Suffragists, and those who are not yet members of that society may be interested to learn how it came to be founded, and in what way it differs from other suffrage organisations.

Foundation of U.S.

It was only in January of the present year that a few men and women, all of whom had seen some service in the suffrage campaign, arrived at the conclusion that there was a real need for yet another society devoting itself to the enfranchisement of women. In view of the fact that there were, at that time, some fifty existing organisations for that purpose, this may have appeared, at first sight, a mere superfluity of novelty. But there was just one kind of suffrage society that did not exist anywhere at all, and that was one that any suffragist could join. It was possible, and eminently desirable, for Catholics and Free Churchmen, gymnastic teachers and actresses, to band themselves together in mutually exclusive organisations, but this little group of people felt that with the process of sectionalisation should go also one of co-ordination, and that there should be some society big enough and broad enough to include men and women, militants and non-militants, and all the various sects and classes of suffragists on equal terms. That was the excuse, and that has been the success of the United Suffragists. What may well have seemed a wild Utopian dream when those half-dozen men and women were meeting together in the rooms of one of their number had "come true" before the war filled the horizon to the temporary exclusion of all else.

A National Organization

In these few months the society has grown into a National organisation, and has enrolled hundreds of those who were converted, but, for some reason or other, had felt themselves unable to join any existing suffrage organisation. It has members of every shade of suffrage opinion, it has raised over one thousand pounds for its funds, it has branches as far apart as Edinburgh and Amersham, and it now has as its official organ a journal that reaches many thousands of readers every week. A great political and canvassing campaign has been carried on in South London, as well as provincially, one of the chief objects of this union of men and women being to mobilise the electors of the country in order to secure a Government measure to give women the vote on equal terms with men.

"Impresarios of the Suffrage Movement"

So successful were the U.S. in obtaining the help of well-known people, not previously identified with the movement, for their great demonstrations in

London that they received the sobriquet of the Impresarios of the Suffrage Movement. Their record, so far, is largely due to the inherent soundness of the fundamental ideas of tolerance, good humour, and equality of men and women, upon which the society was first founded. Just as the founders of the United Suffragists believed that the business of the enfranchisement of women was a job for men and women, so the Committee now believe that the business of running a nation in war time is a job for men and women.

What the U.S. Have To Do

And so, when their nation stands at push of pike, fighting, as it has fought so many times before—and as suffragists are always fighting—for the individual against the steam-roller, for self-expression against *Welt-politik*, they believe that war, too, is a business for women as well as for men—not that men should do all the working and the fighting, and the women the weeping and the starving, but that they should co-operate to carry on the business of the country, to see this thing through, and put into execution such measures as may be necessary, and expressive of the people's point of view. And out of that determination came the two recommendations that the Committee have to make for immediate and practical application by United Suffragists.

First, for those who cannot become trained nurses in the twinkling of an eye, and who are ashamed to see when there are other women to whom this employment means their daily bread, there is the Women's Emergency Corps, of which more will be found on another page, and with which, as we have already said, the U.S. Committee is co-operating.

Secondly, and more intimately connected with suffrage, there is the business of keeping the flag flying over the offices of VOTES FOR WOMEN. The vital importance of this may not be immediately apparent at a time when nobody thinks of anything but the war, and attention is fixed on the latest "official" report. But a good General who is operating against superior numbers does not fritter away his troops by seeking to attack all along the line: he concentrates his forces, and, seeking his opportunity, strikes with overwhelming strength at the critical point and place.

Concentrate on the Paper

For the United Suffragists the point of concentration during the coming months must be their paper. They cannot hope, at such a time as this, to continue their advance in every direction unchecked; but they should resolve that, whatever else is given up for the moment, the paper must be kept going. And, indeed, that is the best and most effective way of keeping the flag flying. By no other means can the organisation be so easily kept together, can so many people be reached and warned of the right moment for renewing the attack, and, above all, can the activities of women during the war be so adequately kept before the public, and the woman's point of view at this time of crisis and danger be voiced. We know that suffragists can do other things than agitate for the vote, but we have yet to make it generally recognised that women can and should, in an emergency, do other things than soothe the wounded or manipulate a needle, important as these things are when executed by those who have made them their business. This can be demonstrated most effectively through the paper.

Lest they Forget

To keep the flag flying we must keep the paper going, "lest they forget." And how readily they do forget the women and the children, and how difficult it is to get their claims and needs presented, suffragists have good cause to know.

But there is another reason why the United Suffragists are not suspending their operations, and, in the opinion of the Committee, it is cogent. Knowing to what extent an army is dependent upon its staff, and having collected a highly efficient one, they do not wish to see it disbanded. Moreover, they feel that a time such as the present, when all right-minded people are urging employers of labour not to increase the amount of unemployment by discharging their assistants, suffragists should be the first to set a good example and avoid, if humanly possible, (and what is not possible to suffragists?) placing those who have served the cause faithfully and selflessly for many years in an awkward position when the competition for employment is keener than ever. And be very sure that those experienced and able helpers will be badly needed again before long. The suffragist's opportunity will not be long in coming.

The Reaction from Excitement

A little later on, when the casualty lists are scanned

every day with mingled hope and terror, when unemployment gets worse (and it is on the woman that unemployment will fall heaviest in this war), when infant mortality goes up steadily, when the excitement wears off and people begin to realise that victories are only rare incidents in a campaign, and that the essentials are discomfort, dirt, misery, short commons and death; then will come a time when men and women will once more be ready to turn an ear to those who will show them where the root of these things lie, and how, by giving due prominence to the woman's voice in the State, a people can reap a harvest of health and happiness and prosperity instead of one of sickness, poverty, and degradation.

And even in the meantime there is work to do and plenty of it. The paper must be obtainable and sold everywhere. The street-selling is being reorganised, the old pitches will be kept going and new pitches opened up. Pitch-captains and sellers are badly wanted. VOTES FOR WOMEN, like all the papers, will probably be smaller during the war, but it will always contain something that will not be found in those other papers that so readily suppress and slur over the doings of women, and its message and its summons must be spread broadcast.

The Aftermath—What it may be

Keep the flag flying! Yes, and see to it that, in the future, that flag of England, for which so many gallant gentlemen have gone out to die, shall float over a people more free, more healthy, more cultured, and more kindly than it has ever done before. More things will come out of this war than were, perhaps, dreamt of in the philosophy of those who made it: other things than the map of Europe have been torn up, and will never be the same again. The guns of Valmy ushered in the nineteenth century, the guns of Belgrade and of Liège have ushered in the twentieth—already fourteen years overdue—the century of the woman and the child. Therefore, let us keep the flag flying—the King's Colour, which stands for all that Englishmen and women have won by blood and iron and tears in the past, and our suffrage flag, the Purple, White, and Orange, which reminds us of what shall be added to the English heritage in our own day and by our own generation.

WANTED—RECRUITS

An army of paper-sellers is being raised at the headquarters of the United Suffragists, 3, Adam Street, Strand, W.C. The only qualifications needed in those enlisting in this battalion of peace are enthusiasm for the cause of womanhood all over the world and a great desire to spread the message of civilisation for which our paper stands more than ever before, now that a devastating war is threatening to destroy what women as well as men have helped to build up.

Captains or Rank and File

Pitches are particularly needed at all the "war news centres"—that is, in the neighbourhood of those shop windows in which the latest telegrams from the front are displayed, where a crowd always congregates. Also at all the busy centres—Charing Cross, Tottenham Court Road, Oxford Circus, Piccadilly Circus, Hyde Park Corner, Marble Arch, Victoria Station. Will volunteers come forward (1) as Captains of these or any other pitches that are more convenient for them; (2) as rank and file paper-sellers? The duty of a captain is to man her pitch with sellers all day, filling in gaps by selling herself if necessary. The duty of the rank and file seller is to offer as much of her time as she can spare (even an hour a week is not to be despised). Competition between Pitch Captains will not be discouraged, and weekly reports of the number of papers sold will be published in these columns.

Provincial Captains

Provincial and local Captains are also asked to start pitches in their several neighbourhoods. These need not be manned every day for the whole week, as in the busy London centres.

Other Methods

The paper may be sold in other ways by those not strong enough, perhaps, to be street sellers. It can be taken from door to door by women who are canvassing poor districts for the purpose of administering relief. If read aloud, it can beguile the time at sewing parties. It can be bought by the well-to-do and passed on to their poorer sisters who need something to distract their minds while the men are away fighting. We shall welcome suggestions from our readers on this important matter.

How to Enrol

All particulars are to be obtained from Paper-selling Organiser, United Suffragists, 3, Adam Street, Strand, W.C., where sellers may also apply for papers.

ACTRESSES' FRANCHISE LEAGUE

2, Robert Street, Adelphi, W.C. President, Lady Forbes-Robertson. The A.F.L. pamphlet entitled "Why Actresses Want the Vote" has now arrived from the printers, and is being distributed at the stall at the Anglo-American Exhibition. The members in charge of the stall during the week are Miss Nolan O'Connor, Miss Adela Vernon, Miss Virginia Seagrave, Miss Carter, Miss Edith Allen, and Miss Murray Clarke.

WOMEN DOCTORS FOR THE FRONT

The Belgian Red Cross Society have sent a most urgent and cordial appeal for English women doctors. Mrs. St. Clair Stobart, with characteristic energy, at once responded by organising a party of seven women doctors, with twelve attendant nurses and eleven other women in the various capacities of cooks, clerks, and ward assistants. Among the doctors are the well-known names of Miss Aldrich Blake, Dr. Florence Stoney, and Dr. Frances Ivens. After very rapid preparations, the party started last Tuesday at 8 a.m. All took surgical equipment, but not the outfit for a hospital. Presumably hospital accommodation will be given them in Brussels or some other Belgian town. It is probable that another contingent will start when Mrs. Stobart's contingent has returned.

Mrs. Stobart's work by the way is a very keen Suffragist, like most of the women now giving their services to the State, has already had actual experience of hospital work at the seat of war, as will be remembered by those of our readers who enjoyed her account in Votes for Women of what her Women's Convoy Corps did in the Balkan War. The Women's National Service League had therefore a quick and practical response when they applied to her for a women's medical unit for the Belgian front; she was able in one day to raise several hundreds of pounds for the purpose, and Lady Cowdry (another believer in the woman's vote) generously gave the X-ray apparatus.

ANOTHER SUFFRAGIST AT THE FRONT

Mrs. McLeod, an active member of the United Suffragists, and well-known in the movement both for militant and non-militant work, has volunteered at the headquarters of the Swiss Red Cross Society for service in the land of her birth. She left England on Wednesday morning last in the uniform of a Red Cross nurse with 500 Swiss troops who have been recalled to their native country in connection with the Swiss mobilisation order. Her first destination is Basle, and it is probable that she will be appointed for service there, as already the hospitals are said to be full of the wounded. Mrs. McLeod felt that she was more urgently needed in Switzerland, where helpers are not so numerous.

IN THE NETHERLANDS

(From our Special Correspondent) The women of other countries cannot fail to cast a look of envy on us who are fortunately left out of the steel grasp of war. And we cannot help constantly picturing to ourselves the anxiety and fear of every mother in the belligerent nations. If women were allowed a voice in the fate of nations assuredly they would stop war. Fortunately in Holland we have no war, but the anxiety and the financial crisis have been felt here just the same, when the order of mobilisation came. The most active part of the male population have been suddenly called away from their work and business, and the hands that were ready to get in the harvest now hold rifles and guns to protect the frontiers; all international traffic has ceased and the country stands on its own resources.

Filling up the Gaps Women are rising to the occasion; our organisations have stopped all work for their own name, and encourage their members to devote their time and energy to public service. Thus the Woman Suffrage Association has at once put a stop to the collecting of signatures for its national petition claiming constitutional

equality for men and women, which was half-completed, and has urged instead all truly public-spirited Suffragists to offer their services to try and fill up the gaps in productive work left after the mobilisation order. Of course, that is not an easy job, and every person is not fit for every kind of work, willing though they may be; and now it is the business of the women organisers, who are banded together in every large city, to take a place for each willing helper, and care that the supply of food and the traffic be continued as satisfactorily as possible, and that bakeries, groceries, and dairies, tramways and posts, and all public services continue to be available.

There are, of course, thousands of unemployed men and women, and our Public Service Committees have to provide for them. Those who require pay are sent to the Municipal Employment Offices, the others are being distributed among the Red Cross Society and the Temporary Aid Board. In Rotterdam, on the first day of their sitting, the ladies registered over 300 demands for employment. So it is hoped that the women may supply the places of the absent men to the best of their ability. That is better than crying and praying at home in the "Early Victorian" fashion.—With fraternal greetings.

Martina G. Kramers. Rotterdam, August 10, 1914.

WHO PAYS?

The First Blow In West London there is a Baby Clinic where some sixty infants are presented each week for examination, weighing, advice, and medical help. It has long been the claim of the politician that he had his finger on the pulse of the nation, but the doctors and rulers of a Baby Clinic have their fingers on the pulse of the next generation, which is much more valuable. At this particular clinic, so we are informed, every single one of the sixty babies showed a falling off in weight at the end of the first week of the war. The first blows of the campaign, trumpeted forth by the Press, are not, as a fact, struck on the frontiers of the enemy's country, but in the cot of the workers' homes. Where the family budget is cut, and times of peace and regular employment are dislocation of credit, trade, or work reacts swiftly and inevitably on the weakest non-combatant. The baby pays!

Welt-Politik! From the Times correspondent's description of the destruction of the village of Visé by the German troops we quote the following:—

"One woman who was found in a state of collapse, with three tiny infants crying helplessly by her side, told the story of her experiences. In the early hours of the morning she went to the neighbouring village of Glons in order to console and reassure her aged mother, leaving her husband to guard the little ones. Her errand of mercy over, she set off on her return journey, to prepare the midday meal for the children, but her home was already in ruins. "I saw the village burning," she said, "but the Germans refused to allow me to pass. I screamed out that my little ones were in the village, but the soldiers had their orders. They said I must not approach. How long I stood watching our homes crumbling in flames I do not know. I fainted." This woman recovered her children, though her husband is a prisoner and her home in flames. Many others will not be so fortunate. What had this Belgian mother to do with Pan-Slavism or the Balance of Power in Europe? But she, and thousands like her, must pay!

"Mary, Pity Women" She was watching them drilling in a churchyard—grim setting for the preliminaries of war. They were young and eager for the novelty of it all, proud (and justly proud) that they had responded to their country's call. She was old and long past any illusions; the world had taken much work from her, and yielded her little enough in return. "Eh, me!" she murmured; "I've said to see the fine young men. All going to their death in furrin parts they are. Is it that what we brings childer into the world for? Eh, me, 'tis hard for us women in war-time. And, still mumb'ling to herself, she pulled her shawl closer round her and stomped off. The mother pays!

LOOKING AFTER THEIR SUPPORTERS

The politicians can always find time to look after the interests of the male voter, even in the stress of war. We read that the registration claims of lodgers who have volunteered, or who have been called up for naval and military service, may be signed on their behalf under a special Act of Parliament, the Electoral Disabilities (Naval and Military Service) Removal Act, 1914, recently passed for the purpose. And yet this same Parliament cannot find time for an "Electoral Disabilities (Women) Removal Act," Verily "to them which hath shall be given!"

COMPARISON OF PUNISHMENTS

LIGHT SENTENCES Assault on a Girl The Kirkintilloch Herald (August 5) reports case of a minor charged at Stirling Sheriff Court, before Sheriff-Substitute Mitchell, with indecently assaulting a little girl of nine. Sentence: Fined £3, or twenty days' imprisonment. NEAVY SENTENCES Theft of Trousers The Hackney and Kingsland Gazette (August 12) reports case of a boot-finisher charged before Mr. Hedderwick at Old Street with stealing a pair of trousers worth 6s. Sentence: Three months' hard labour.

Assault on a Wife The Sheffield Weekly Independent (July 13) reports case of an ex-prize-fighter charged at Chesterfield with brutally assaulting his wife, blackening both her eyes, and bruising her all over her body. He also threatened to chop off her head with a hatchet. Defendant pleaded provocation, saying his wife drank. Sentence: Fined £2 and costs. Fraud on Landladies The Glasgow News (August 13) reports case of a man charged before Sheriff Boyd, in Glasgow Sheriff Court, with obtaining board and lodgings without paying for them. He admitted eight charges. In the defence it was urged that he had been working steadily for eighteen months. Sentence: Two years' hard labour.

WOMEN AND PEACE

While women in all the nations now at war are pooling their common interests with men's and doing their utmost to alleviate the sufferings brought about by the war in which they have had no voice, Suffragists all over the world feel that no effort should be spared at least to prevent the recurrence of such a tragedy. The National-American Woman Suffrage Association, of which Dr. Anna Shaw is President, has issued an appeal for peace to organised Suffragists in twenty-six different countries, in the course of which she says:— "Hundreds of thousands have sacrificed their lives to the life-giving vocation of motherhood. Yet, without one thought of the sufferings and sacrifices of mothers who have reared sons, or of the tremendous industrial burdens that war will impose upon women, who will have to do their own work and the work of the men called to the field of battle, without consideration of the little children who will have to be taken from school or from play for industrial toil thus wantonly imposed upon them by the Government whose duty it is to protect and shield them; this curse of a medieval war is thrust upon those who will and wish have not been consulted. "Is it that hundreds of thousands of their sons may go down to death before the terrible machinery of modern war that the nations call upon women to give their youth, their years of toil, and their labour for a higher civilization? Have they reared sons only to become a prey to the ambition of kings and exploiters? Shall the strongest and noblest of the races of men be sacrificed, and only the weak and maimed left to perpetuate mankind? "Let the women of every nation involved in war make their men understand that the highest patriotism lies in conserving life, wealth, and energy, and that war means not conservation but destruction of all that is best in civilization."

"EVERYWOMAN'S" PEACE COMMITTEE An "Everywoman's" committee is being formed of women of all nations with the object of putting an end as speedily as possible to the present war. The moving spirit in the scheme is Madame Thounaian, of Chigwell, Essex, founder of the Swiss Union of Peace for Women.

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For prospectus and information, apply to JANETTE STEER, 53, Sloane Gardens, S.W. (788 Gerrard).

CORRESPONDENCE

THE REAL PATRIOT

To the Editors of VOTES FOR WOMEN Dear Editors,—In the present crisis one most essential matter is to husband the national resources. Not one halfpenny should be spent foolishly, not one inch or one ounce of material cut to waste. The assistance given to the necessitous should above all things be practical, and it is far better that it should be in the form of paid work than mere doles, and therefore everybody should make it his or her first business to see that the normal life is maintained, and that the ordinary channels of trade and industry are supported, so that tradesmen can keep their premises open and their staffs employed. Several daily and weekly papers are giving out paper patterns, so that women can have the gratification of making shirts and other articles. Does it not strike you, and the public, that a number of wholesale and retail firms keep an army of people at work in making just such things, and that if there is any extra demand for them now, it may make just the difference between discharging workers or keeping them on? Every woman who has means and leisure, and who rushes into this kind of "help" to ease her own desire to "do something," is helping to increase, not decrease, the national burden. It is a hard saying, but none the less true, that the most patriotic thing that many of us can do to-day is to do nothing, until some real call comes for service that is actually needed. It is the same with hospital equipment, which should all be supplied by the big firms who undertake such expert matters rather than by well-meaning amateurs who think "old linen" a suitable commodity to introduce into proximity with surgical dressings! . . . The waste of material in "comforts" and so forth that may never be needed, that was so painful a feature of the South African War, should be carefully avoided, and it is because of my former experience in the emergency work of a great war that I venture to intercede now.

Persons who have never before taken the slightest interest in their country's concerns, who have voted politics a bore, and who have never given a serious thought to public affairs, are now in overwhelming emotion desirous of "giving their services." I do not belittle the truth and depth of the emotion when I entreat them to restrain it, and to refrain at any cost to themselves and their feelings from wasteful activities, that may squander valuable material or actually help to keep needy persons out of work. Let me therefore beg of you to use your great influence to discourage in all directions any amateur work that should be paid work, and any amiable endeavours on the part of women of leisure to interfere with the ordinary course of trade, or to divert the least bit of work from professional and industrial channels. I would beg them rather to turn their attention to the firms whom they patronise, and that they do not wantonly discharge, or sweat, the nation's workers in the time of the nation's trial. This is "work" we can all help in with the consciousness that it has a real and true value.—Yours, &c., C. NINA BOYLE.

NURSES AND GOVERNMENT RECOGNITION

To the Editors of VOTES FOR WOMEN. Dear Editors,—No doubt you have noticed that the Government is now according official recognition to the uniform of the Boy Scouts as that of a public service, non-military body. For over twenty-five years a large number of English nurses, supported by doctors and others, have prayed the Government to accord some kind of official recognition to the uniform of the trained nurse. Owing to the abuse of our uniform at the present time, and for other reasons also, the need for official recognition is urgent and imperative. But as usual, we women ask in vain for assistance. Our work is harder, more dangerous, and inconceivably more exhausting and trying than the light and pleasant duties of Boy Scouts, and just now women are again offering their services freely to their country; but we hear nothing of official recognition of our uniform. It seems rather unfair that untrained boys should be protected and assisted by Government, while the tried and trained women of England are left to fight their battle alone. But voters, actual or potential, seem to be all our Government care to consider. I enclose my card.—Yours, &c., MATHSON.

A CHANCE FOR PROPAGANDA

To the Editors of VOTES FOR WOMEN. Dear Editors,—I see that a correspondent this week advocates the wearing of

SUFFRAGE DIRECTORY

- Actresses' Franchise League, 2, Robert Street, Adelphi, W.C. Adult Suffragist, 19, Buckingham Street, Strand, W.C. Artists' Suffrage League, 229, King's Road, S.W. Australian and New Zealand Women Voters' Association, 5, York Street, St. James', S.W. British Dominions Woman Suffrage Union, 25, Beavers Street, Oxford Street, W. Catholic Women's Suffrage Society, 6, York Buildings, Adelphi, W.C. Church League for Women's Suffrage, 6, York Buildings, Adelphi, W.C. Civil Service Suffrage Society, 19, Salisbury Road, Highbury, W. Conservative and Unionist Women's Franchise Association, 48, Dover Street, W. East London Federation of the Suffragettes, 321, Roman Road, Bow, E. Federated Council of Women's Suffrage Societies, 4, Alfred Place, Tottenham Court Road, W.C. Forward Cymric Suffrage Union, 55, Wandsworth Bridge Road, S.W. Free Church League for Women's Suffrage, 25, Beavers' Buildings, Chancery Lane, E.C. Friends' League for Women's Suffrage, Walden, Gloucester. Gymnastic Teachers' Suffrage Society, 2, York Place, Oxford Road, Manchester. International Suffrage Shop, 11, Adam Street, Adelphi, W.C. International Woman Suffrage Alliance, 7, Adam Street, Adelphi, W.C. International Women's Franchise Club, 4, Grosvenor Street, W. Irishwomen's Franchise League, Westmoreland Chambers, Westmoreland Street, Dublin. Irishwomen's Reform League, 29, South Anne Street, Dublin. Irishwomen's Suffrage and Local Government Association, 103, Rathfarnham Road, Dublin. Irishwomen's Suffrage Federation, 27, South Anne Street, Dublin. Irishwomen's Suffrage Society, 27, Donegal Place, Dublin. Jewish League for Woman Suffrage, 32, Hyde Park Gardens, W. League of Justice, 22, South Molton Street, W. Liberal Men's Suffrage Society, 31, Denison House, Vauxhall Bridge, S.W. Liberal Women's Suffrage Union, Denison House, Vauxhall Bridge, S.W. London Graduates' Union for Woman Suffrage, Chester Gate, Ealing. Marchers' Qui Vive Corps, Dunton, Peatworth, Sussex. Men's Federation for Women's Suffrage, Temp. Address: 19, Buckingham Street, Strand, W.C. Men's League for Woman Suffrage, 136, St. Stephen's House, Westminster. Men's Political Union for Women's Emfranchisement, 13, Buckingham Street, Strand, W.C. Men's Society for Women's Rights, 65, Avenue Chambers, Southampton Row, W.C. Munster League for Women's Suffrage, 1, Great Malton Street, Manchester. National Industrial and Professional Women's Suffrage Society, 1, Westmoreland Street, Manchester. National Political League, Bank Buildings, 14, 1, James' Street, S.W. National Union of Women's Suffrage Societies, 14, 1, South Street, Westminster, S.W. New Constitutional Society for Woman Suffrage, 8, Park Mansions Arcade, Knightsbridge. Northern Men's Federation for Women's Suffrage, 6, Wellington Road, St. John's Wood, N.W. Scottish Churches League for Woman Suffrage, 11, Howe Street, Edinburgh. Scottish Federation for Women's Suffrage, 2, St. Andrew Square, Edinburgh. Spiritual Militancy League, 46, Queen's Road, Baywater, W. Suffrage Atelier, Studio: 6, St. Mark's Villas, Shepherd's Bush, W. Suffrage Club, 3, York Street, St. James', S.W. 'Suffrage First' Committee, 4, 7, Red Lion Court, Fleet Street, E.C. Suffrage Service League, 29, Broadway, Westminster. Suffragist Churchwomen's Protest Committee, 21, Downside Crescent, Hampstead, N.W. Theosophical Suffrage Society, 19, Tavistock Square, W.C. United Religious Woman Suffrage Societies, 15, Beaux' Buildings, Chancery Lane, E.C. United Suffragists, 4, Adam Street, Strand, W.C. Women Sanitary Inspectors' Suffrage Society, 83, Sutherland Avenue, W. Women's Freedom League, 1, Robert Street, Adelphi, W.C. Women's Silent Co-operation for Freedom, 10, Southfields Road, Eastbourne. Women's Social and Political Union, Lincoln's Inn House, Kingsway, W.C. Women's Tax Resistance League, 10, Talbot House, St. Martin's Lane W.C. Women Teachers' Franchise Union, 27, Marlow Road, Lee, S.E. Women Writers' Suffrage League, Goschen Buildings, Houghton Street, W.C.

A FIRST-RATE OFFER

To the Editors of VOTES FOR WOMEN. Dear Editors,—Several friends and myself feel that we should like to give what little help we can in the present crisis. We realise, however, that indiscriminate effort is likely to do more harm than good, so if you are making any plans to carry on organised help we shall be glad if you will let us know of any way in which our efforts can be utilised. We are all self-supporting business girls, and our weekly contribution of money and time would necessarily be small, but as far as it goes we should like to see them to the best advantage.—Yours, &c., GLADYS J. TITFORD.

P.S.—Two or three of the girls have a week's holiday, starting September 19, and they would like to give their services should there be any use for them. [We refer our correspondent gladly to our appeal on page 705, and should like to receive as many similar letters as possible.—Editors, VOTES FOR WOMEN.]

A NEW FEMINIST PLAY

We learn that on the evening of Saturday, October 3, there will be produced at the Royal Court Theatre a strong drama entitled "The Sphinx," in which a novel and feminist answer will be suggested for the riddle. The play will present in symbolism the mystery underlying the sex problem—that problem which our civilization must solve or perish. The sum—£400—required for the expenses of seven evening performances and two matinées is to be raised by the issue of £1 shares, and it is felt that Suffragists will welcome this opportunity of feminist propaganda at a time when their ordinary methods of work may be unavailably curtailed. The value of the share for purposes of social propaganda has long been recognised, for it appeals to a class of people who could not be induced to attend a meeting or a lecture. The play has been read to a committee of experts, including Miss Lillah McCarthy, Miss Mary Moore, Miss Beatrice Harraden, and Mr. Laurance Housman, who were unanimous in expressing their favourable opinion of its strength and interest. We hope that Miss Janette Steer will have no difficulty in obtaining the necessary support for the production of "The Sphinx," and we shall look forward to being present at the opening performance.

OUR FRIENDS THE "ANTIS"

According to the Daily Telegraph the National League for Opposing Woman Suffrage "has decided to abandon all outside propaganda work during the war, and to give the spare time thus created in their offices to work for the Soldiers' and Sailors' Families Association." We recognise the self-sacrifice and generosity involved in this abandonment of "outside" Anti-Suffrage propaganda during the war. Apparently the organisation does not think it safe to abandon the more arduous work of keeping its own members converted to Anti-Suffrage principles.

GERMAN WOMEN AS COLLIERIES

Another "Anti" outpost gone! News comes from Berno that women are being employed in the collieries in the provinces of the Rhine and Westphalia. What becomes of the physical force argument now? Or does it only hold good when the men want to keep the work for themselves?

A SUGGESTION

Might we suggest that a special brigade of Liberal stewards should be sent to the front? Their prowess, as displayed in the heat of treatment of anti-anti-heeklers, would doubtless strike terror into the Germans.—The Irish Citizen.

NURSES' UNIFORMS

We emphasise elsewhere the importance of avoiding the substitution of amateur work for paid work, and thus enabling firms to keep their staff in employment. It is, therefore, worth pointing out that Messrs. Debenham and Freebody, of Wigmore Street, with their long experience and special facilities for making every grade of hospital uniform, including the Queen Alexandra Imperial Nursing Service, are in a position to undertake every garment and requisite required for the nursing profession at very moderate prices, and will be pleased to forward anyone an illustrated catalogue upon application. They also hold a very large stock of flannels, calicoes, blankets, &c., natural and blue flannel as used for soldiers' shirts and pyjamas, and red flannel for hospital wear.

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Single insertion, 24 words or less, 2s., 1d. per word for every additional word (four insertions for the price of three).

All advertisements must be prepaid. To ensure insertion in our next issue, all advertisements must be received not later than Tuesday afternoon. Address, the Advertisement Manager, VOTES FOR WOMEN, 47, Red Lion Court, Fleet Street, E.C.

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